

Bloomfield and Montclair

W. F. LYON, Associate Editor.

PUBLICATION OFFICE is next door to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

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—\$1 to Clergymen.

—\$1 to School Teachers.

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Marriage and Death Notices 25 cents each.

Special Reports made for agreed consideration.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

We cordially greet our readers with this familiar phrase. Since we used this expression last year we have been a great traveler. We have been some three hundred sixty-five times around the earth; amounting to nearly one hundred thousand miles! More than this, we have made a very long journey also around the sun, amounting to the enormous distance of five hundred and fifty millions of miles more. In all this tour, though numerous other vehicles were journeying in the same direction at different rates of speed, we have met with no accident or collision or other untoward event to interrupt our course or mar our pleasure.

Once, last summer, a great scare was created among our passengers by the appearance of a swift moving craft with a tremendous tow behind, that threatened to cross our track, and which excited the fears of many that a catastrophe would occur. But we never got any nearer to it and after many days it disappeared altogether. Then again, only a few days since, a remarkably freight car; actually did cross our track near enough to shade some part of our train.

We arrived safe at twelve o'clock last night, and now, deferring any details of the sights and scenes which have exhilarated us on and which we may have some observations to make hereafter, here we are with the First Number of the Fourth Volume of the GAZETTE in hand, and our sincerest wishes for you, dear reader!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The planets of the solar system.
[The Comet.
[Venus at its late transit.

OUR EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

The increasing interest felt in all educational movements by almost every class in the community, augurs well for the future of our country. This feeling is not limited to our country either. It is manifest in many States of Europe and in some parts of Asia. A great awakening is evident on this subject in all parts of the world.

It is highly proper that we should devote some attention weekly to this most important interest. Under this conviction we have hitherto held at least one column subject to its claims. We propose to continue in this course, having peculiar resources and facilities to make it interesting and profitable to all parents and other citizens, as well as to educators and teachers.

Let no parent or young lady fail to read that column, on the first page, in this issue and the next. It will be found pregnant with most valuable information and suggestions.

OBITUARY.

Death of Hon. ALVAH CROCKER.—Hon. Alvah Crocker, Representative in Congress from the tenth district, died at his residence, Fitchburg, Mass., on Dec. 28. He left Washington to spend the holidays at home, and caught a severe cold, which, on Friday, assumed the serious form of congestion of the lungs, and terminated fatally. His age was seventy-three. Mr. Crocker, though not liberally educated was a well read man. His familiarity with American and English history was quite remarkable.

We knew him well and are happy to offer a just tribute to the memory of one who commanded our respect and admiration. His personal urbanity, mental culture, and refined manners rendered him a most agreeable member of the social circle and his conversational powers were equal to any demand which his constant intercourse with business men and with political society might make upon him. His judgment was independent and sound, and his opinions were sought and relied upon by his fellow citizens and acquaintances on all public questions, and even in private matters. With shrewd discernment and unquestioned probity in business, he was generous and honorable, and maintained a high character among a large circle of business men in the great cities of the Union, where he was long and especially known. His calling was that of a paper manufacturer in which his great industry and wise forecast soon brought him to the front rank in the trade and insured him large success. He was the owner of a number of paper mills in Massachusetts and probably better understood and comprehended the various requisites and tendencies of that vocation than almost any other man engaged in the business. His only son, Charles Crocker, having been well educated and then thoroughly trained to the business, has for many years had the oversight and management of the production, and is, of course, entirely competent to succeed to the large business which has been so well established by his father.

Mr. Crocker was well qualified by his practical and extensive information, by his habits of inquiry in familiar conversation with all classes of artisans and tradesmen, and in his extended travels in his own country and on the other continent, as well as by his patriotic devotion to liberal principles, to be a statesman. Though he evinced no personal ambition for the distinction which place and power would confer, he was several times elected by the free suffrages of his fellow citizens to

the Senate of the United States, which latter he held at the time of his death. Besides the son above named, Mr. Crocker leaves an only daughter, the wife of Mr. Wm. Roscoe Lyon, of the firm of Coffin & Lyon, wholesale paper dealers in New York.

HOME MATTERS.

WEATHER CHRONICLE.

Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre.

Dec. 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

At 11 A.M. 32° 33° 34° 35° 36° 37° 38°

At Noon 43° 40° 32° 33° 44° 41° 43°

At 9 P.M. 27° 32° 30° 34° 36° 46° 33°

BLOOMFIELD.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL, BLOOMFIELD.

Our attention has been directed to a further scrutiny of the tables of attendance at the Public Schools which we published two or three weeks since. It is thought we did injustice to the High School in our remarks upon that record, in stating that tardiness and absences had largely increased in that department over the corresponding month of 1873. Let us relate the facts. The absences during November were in 1873—197; in 1874—204, an absolute increase of 11.

Instances of tardiness during November: In 1873—14; in 1874—45.

An absolute increase of 31.

This would seem to justify our remarks then made. But we did not note particularly that the membership of the Class in 1873 was only 36 and in 1874 is 49.

Taking this element into the account, the relative absences have been fewer in Nov., 1874, than in Nov., 1873.

We are glad that we have proved that the scholars and the teacher of that department are sensitive to its reputation. So are we. So are all considerate citizens. Bloomfield feels justly proud of its fine public schools and of its well taught high school department. Now we earnestly hope that every scholar in that department will be determined that it shall not be his absences that will bring discredit upon his school or his class.

PRESENTATION.

On Saturday evening, 30th inst., after the regular rehearsal of the large choir of St. Paul's M. E. Church, of Newark, they were invited by Rev. Dr. Sims to step into the parsonage next door, where were assembled a number of the members of the congregation of that church.

After a long pause, caused as it proved by the non-appearance of Chancellor Ryon, who was unavoidably detained by official duties, and who was to have made the presentation, Mr. H. H. Miller, the Treasurer, arose, and after some general remarks concerning the church, addressed himself particularly to Miss Joanna B. Harvey of this place, who for the past year has occupied the position of leading soprano in St. Paul's, and concluded by presenting her in behalf of the choir and congregation an elegant silver tea service consisting of salver and six pieces, lined with gold.

The set is of very elaborate silver and is inscribed: "To Miss Joanna B. Harvey, from the choir and congregation of St. Paul's M. E. Church, Dec. 31, 1874," in commemoration of the close of her engagement there, and her marriage to Dr. F. W. Pennett, which occurred on same day.

It gives us pleasure to chronicle this pleasant event in the life of our young townsman, who leaves Bloomfield to reside, in her new relation, at Brewster, N. Y.

REJUVENATED.—The Old Presbyterian Church, at the head of the Park in Bloomfield, after a thorough overhauling, its face and hands washed and scoured, its interior relieved from the green goggles, its interior well expurgated, opened its doors to its friends last Sunday. All agree that it has renewed its youth again. Its walls are modestly but tastefully frescoed, that is to say, according to the best taste of the trustees, the rear of the pulpit has a lofty architectural walnut fixture planked against the walls, which we suppose indicates and measures the taste of the architect and the gallery has a novel display of rails and balustrades which will attract the eyes of all visitors and exercise their curiosity during the service to solve the enigma of their purpose.

It has been suggested that they may be pens to divide the "sheep" from the "goats," but we are not apt in explaining riddles and must be excused.

The church has a cheery appearance; the pews with the new cushions are very comfortable; the carpets in the aisles reflect the highest credit upon the taste that chose them; and the stained windows with an enduring memorial of the progressive spirit, enlightened views of the mission of the church, and the noblest of its members, their introduction and, if we understand rightly, foisted the bill for that improvement.

THE WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL for the Sunday School took place at the Church, on Wednesday evening. The youngsters (nobody seemed old on that occasion) had a delightful time. The guest-tory faculty was entirely satisfied. Before closing of the evening entertainment, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy was the objective party of a token of affection from his people in a little box gracefully presented with a neat speech from Mr. H. B. Sheldon, which he showed how to make so happily. On opening the seeming toy it was found to contain the substance as well as the show of esteem in a gift of \$150 to the worthy pastor. We cannot attempt to describe the manner of the heartfelt acknowledgment from the recipients.

THE PARSONAGE RELIEF ASSOCIATION of the Methodist Church in Bloomfield gave a musical and oratorical entertainment at the church on Wednesday evening to a full house and with very favorable financial results. The rendering of the music and the other performances were highly creditable and satisfactory.

THE MONTCLAIR DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION gave a complimentary entertainment and reception at Jacobus Hall, on Wednesday evening.

THE RELIGIOUS WEEKLIES.

The *Christian at Work*, in a pleasant editorial on Christmas, thus honestly refers to its true source that good in which some claim for human nature. It is remarkable at least that it is only found in Christian countries.

We crown Him King once more, as we think of his precious name, Emmanuel—God with us. Some of us do not know it. We deny ourselves that we may send clothes and food to starving strangers in Nebraska, and we think our common humanity moves us. We pay our money to educate boys and girls who have no claim upon us, to up-braid burned cities, to aid towns laid waste by plague or fever; we do small deeds of unselfishness, hardly knowing that we do them; we read every day of the heroism and self-sacrifice of plain, obscure men and women, and we plume ourselves on the latent goodness in the human heart. It all comes from Christ. His Spirit has interpenetrated the fibres of the heart, and everywhere nations and individuals are better and nobler because He took on Him our flesh.

The New York *Observer* brings into striking connection some facts in the history of the Sandwich Islands, which furnish a conclusive answer to those who disparage foreign missionary work. It says:

"The coming of a King of the Sandwich Islands to this country, welcomed by our government as a nation's guest, received with honors in every city, is not so remarkable in itself, as in the fact that it revives the memory of the most extraordinary event in the annals of modern religious missions."

The islands were discovered by Captain Cook in 1778. Their religion included human sacrifices, and cannibalism was their habit of life. In the year 1818 the King abolished the pagan rites of blood, and destroyed the idols and temples.

October 23, 1819, and before this abolition of idolatry was heard of in this or any other Christian land, the first company of missionaries sailed from Boston for the Sandwich Islands. They arrived April 4, 1820, and were welcomed by the King and the chiefs, who were without weapons, and waiting for one to come. They heard the word and believed. And from that time to this the Christian religion has prevailed in those islands of the sea.

And now comes the King of the Islands to the country from which went the religion of his people; the first King who was ever received by the Government of the United States.

King Kelaekana has received an invitation to Westborough, Mass., to visit Mrs. D. Chamberlain, one of the original band of missionaries who went to the Sandwich Islands, and who were welcomed by the King and the chiefs, who were without weapons, and waiting for one to come. They heard the word and believed. And from that time to this the Christian religion has prevailed in those islands of the sea.

And the King is reported to have responded as follows:

"I am extremely gratified Mr. Senator, to receive a commission from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, a body which, under divine Providence, has been allowed to exert as vast and salutary an influence upon my people. I hope to be able to visit the city of Boston, and while there I shall be happy to receive the members of the Board and those who are interested with them in the great work in which they are engaged, and to express to them personally my high appreciation of their labors."

The leading editorial in the *Evangelist* is our "THE WORLD'S CONCERT OF PRAYER," and we heartily join with it commending the following as among the first subjects that should engage our thoughts and prayers at this time:

"The importance of an exact administration of justice among ourselves, of the effective execution of laws by those appointed to the sacred trust of purity in our institutions, and incorruptible virtue among the people; the call for effort to elevate the poor and the degraded of our city populations, to reach the vast mass of heathenism that is in our midst, and to press the duty to educate a nation; the pressing duty to educate a nation; providing schools and colleges, to which must be added the Christian influence which alone can create a nation; the preacher, the printed tract or volume, and the ordinances of the sanctuary; the vindication of the Sabbath, and its observance as a day of sacred trust and purity in our institutions, and incorruptible virtue among the people; the call for effort to elevate the poor and the degraded of our city populations, to reach the vast mass of heathenism that is in our midst, and to press the duty to educate a nation; the pressing duty to educate a nation; 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